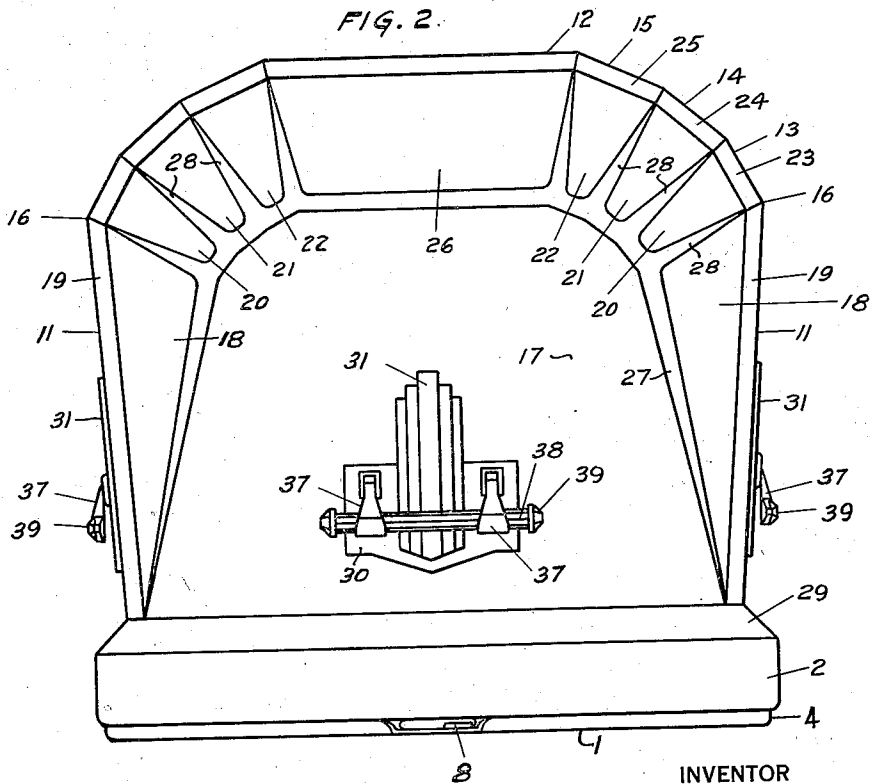
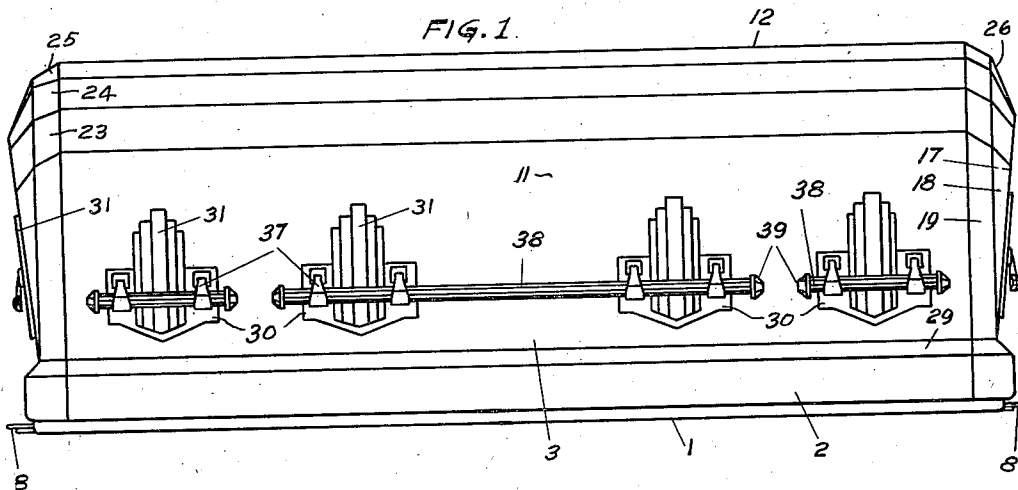


July 20, 1937.

R. E. SMITH
BURIAL VAULT
Filed Jan. 11, 1935

2,087,486

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR
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July 20, 1937.

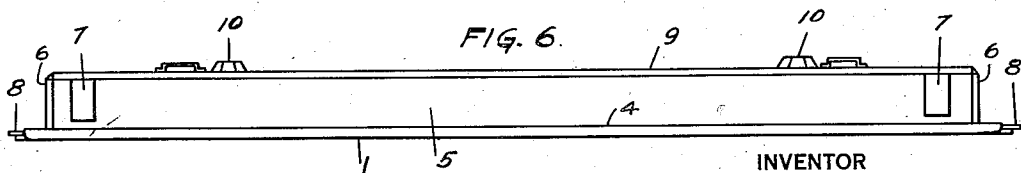
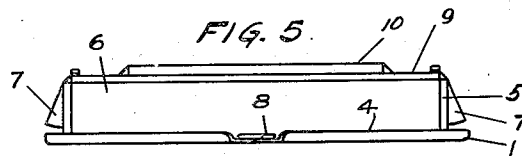
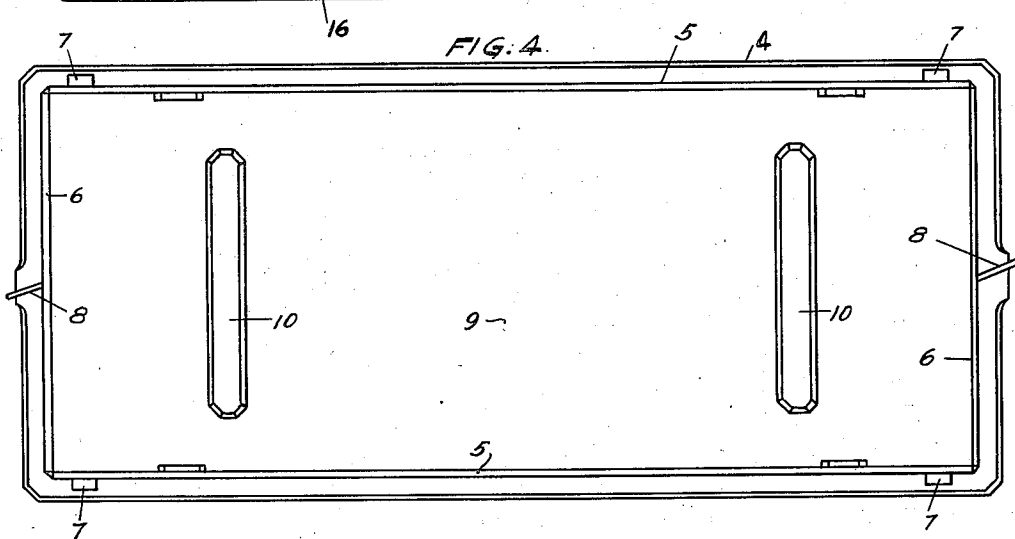
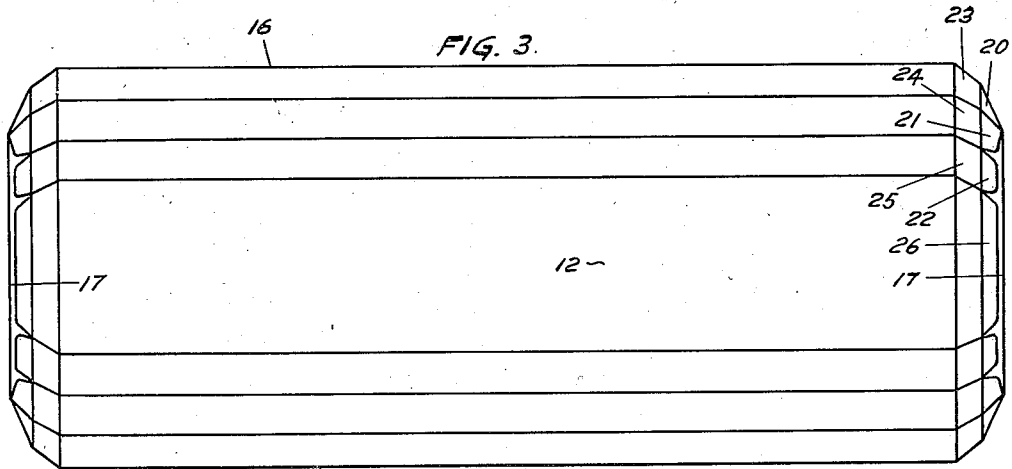
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3 Sheets-Sheet 2



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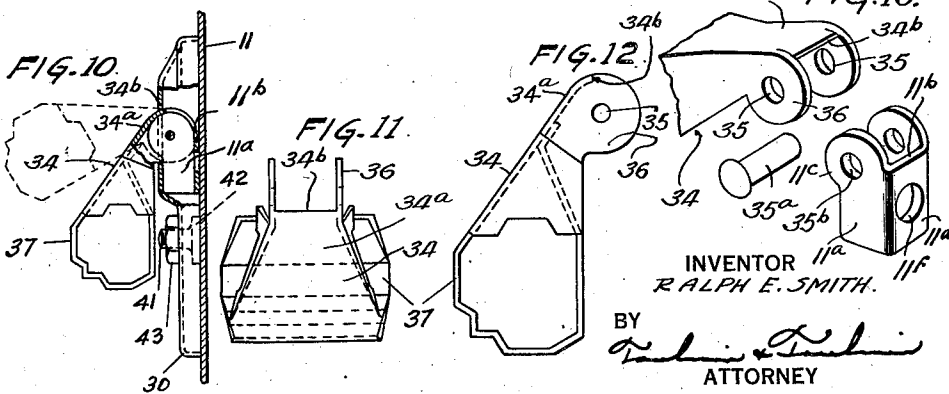
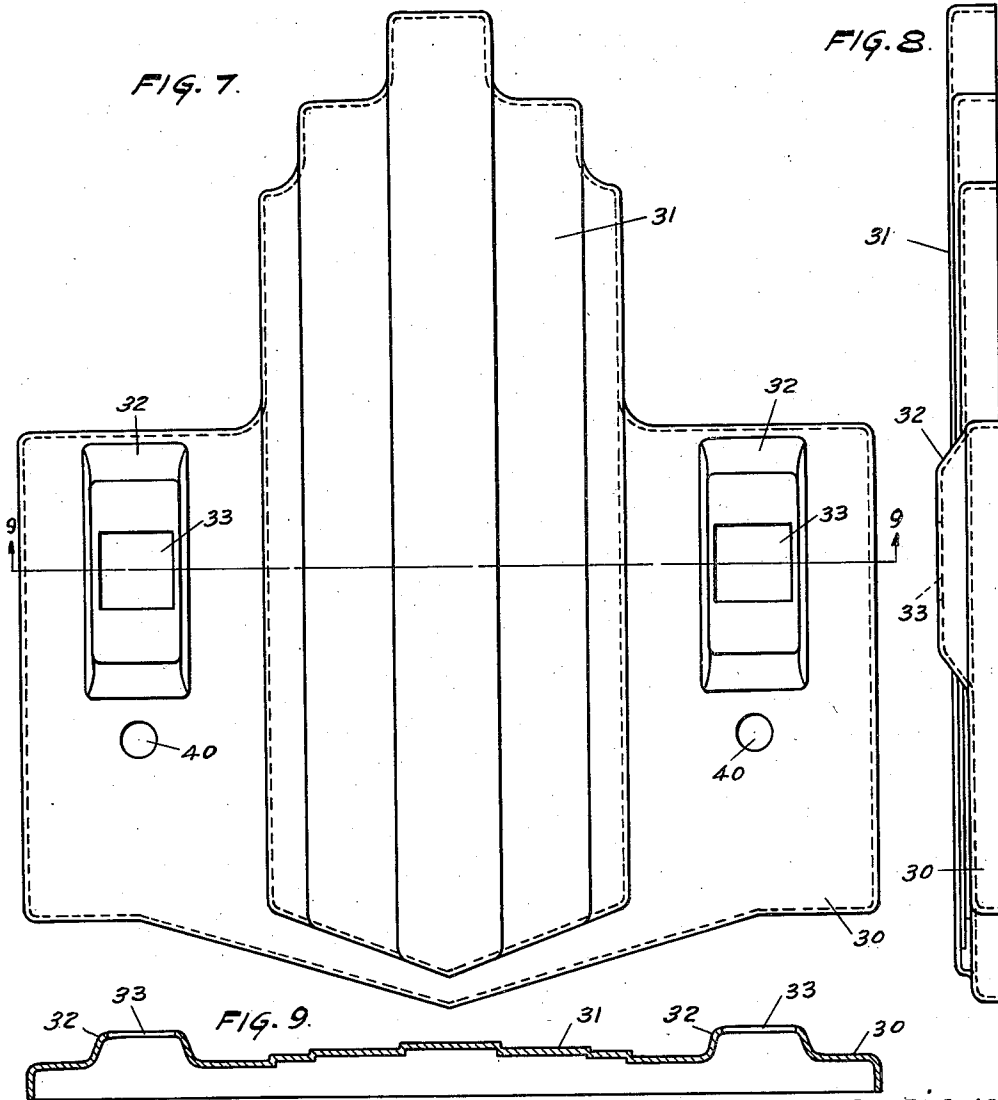
R. E. SMITH

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BURIAL VAULT

Filed Jan. 11, 1935

3 Sheets-Sheet 3



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,087,486

BURIAL VAULT

Ralph E. Smith, Galion, Ohio, assignor to The
Galion Metallic Vault Company, Galion, Ohio,
a corporation of Ohio

Application January 11, 1935, Serial No. 1,351

4 Claims. (Cl. 27—35)

My invention relates to grave vaults and handles.

It is an object of the invention to provide a grave vault of sheet metal of great structural strength while at the same time providing beauty of appearance.

It is an object to provide a grave vault in which the cover portion provides a reinforced arch and tapered ends.

It is a further object to provide a vault on which the handles may be mounted in such a manner as not to interfere with the continuity of the vault structure but at the same time provide for a rigid anchoring of the escutcheon plate and handle carried by the plate on the vault structure.

It is also an object to provide means of retaining the handle in pivotal relationship to the escutcheon plate by the single retaining means for retaining the escutcheon plate to the vault.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the complete vault;

Figure 2 is an end elevation;

Figure 3 is a top plan view;

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the base with the cover removed;

Figure 5 is an end elevation of the base with the cover removed;

Figure 6 is a side elevation of the base with the cover removed;

Figure 7 is a front elevation of the handle escutcheon plate without the handle;

Figure 8 is a side elevation thereof without the handle;

Figure 9 is a section on the line 9—9 of Figure 7;

Figure 10 is a side elevation of the escutcheon plate and handle showing the attaching means to the vault;

Figure 11 is a detail plan view of the handle;

Figure 12 is a side elevation of the handle.

Figure 13 is an exploded view of the details of a handle pivot plate and an intermediate or attaching member showing the means of connection thereof, with the pivot plate broken away.

Referring to the drawings in detail, I designate the flange constituting a support for the skirt 2 of the vault cover 3. This flange 1 is provided with an upwardly-turned rim 4. Inwardly disposed and projecting upwardly from the face of the flange 1 are the side walls 5 and end walls 6 of the base of the vault. These side walls are provided with locking devices 7 which form no part of the present invention. The locking de-

vices are actuated by the handle 8. The top of the base is designated 9 and has casket supporting ribs 10.

The vault cover comprises side walls 11 that are inclined upwardly and outwardly. The side walls 11 are joined to the top 12 by a series of annularly-disposed surfaces 13, 14 and 15 thereby constituting with the top and side walls an arch, the bottom of the arch between the side walls 11 being closer than the maximum lateral dimension of the arch between the shoulders 16. The faces of the side walls 11 and the surfaces 12, 13, 14 and 15 are flat. This construction gives great structural strength as the complete structure is formed of a single piece of metal, or it may be formed of a series of pieces of metal welded together. The ends of the vault likewise provide great structural strength. The end panel 17 inclines upwardly and outwardly. It is flat. It is joined to the side walls and top by the following construction.

Triangular panels 18 join the sides of the end panel 17 to an intermediate, angularly-disposed plate 19. Likewise, radially-disposed panels 20, 21 and 22 connect the corners of the end panels 17 to corresponding plates 23, 24 and 25 which are in turn connected to the plates 13, 14 and 15. The panels 22 are connected by the sloping end panel 26. A panel structure designated 27 surrounds the margin of the end wall 17 and has a plurality of radiating panel fingers 28, thus adding to the strength and appearance of the vault. The vault has outwardly and upwardly expanding sides and outwardly expanding ends joined to the top by a series of angularly-disposed flat panels.

The end walls and side walls are provided with the skirt 2 which is disposed outwardly from the side walls and end walls and is connected to them by a diagonally-disposed flange 29. The end wall may be stamped out of one piece.

Turning to the handle construction, it will be observed that an escutcheon plate 30 with a decorative panel 31 is provided; the escutcheon plate has a depressed groove portion 32 with a slot 33 in the base of it through which the handle pivot plates 34 are inserted. These handle pivot plates 34 have spaced side faces terminating at the top in arcuate portions 35, each having a hole therein, which side faces are struck up from the transversely extending portion 34a of the handle pivot plate 34. The portion 34a terminates at the top in a straight stop member 34b. Adapted to be welded, riveted, or otherwise rigidly secured to the vault body is a plurality of U-section inter-

mediate or attaching members 11a having a flat or web portion 11d with a hole 11f therein, by which portions the members are attached to the vault body. These attaching members have their side portions terminating at the top in arcuate members 11c having holes 35b therein, which are adapted to register with holes 35 in the arcuate portions 36 and receive pins, bolts or rivets, such as 35a, by which the handle pivot plates are secured to the attaching members 11a. The top edge 11b of the web portion 11d cooperates with the stop member 34b on the handle pivot plate to limit pivotal movement thereof with regard to the attaching members 11a and the vault body. The handle assembly comprising the intermediate or attaching members, and pivotally attached handle structures are directly supported on the vault body by the rigid attachment of attaching members thereto, and the escutcheon plates are independently attached to the vault body, and perform merely shielding and ornamental functions, and therefore may be of extremely light and cheap construction. The handle portion is designated 37 and may be of any desired character. It is shown as a pressed metal body forming a loop through which a bar 38 is inserted. The bar is provided with caps 39. The escutcheon plate is provided with the bolt apertures 40. The bolts 41 project through these apertures. The base of the bolt 42 is welded to the face of the side wall or end wall of the vault. A nut 43 serves to retain the escutcheon plate on the vault and to thereby retain the handle in pivotal relationship with the escutcheon plate and when the handle is in its at-rest position, it covers the head of the bolt 41 and the nut 43.

It will be understood that I desire to comprehend within my invention such modifications as may be necessary to adapt it to varying conditions and uses.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A vault top having a skirt, upwardly flaring end and side walls, a flat top portion, a plurality of longitudinally-disposed, flat, angularly-arranged panels forming an arch connecting the side walls and top, triangular-shaped panels con-

necting the side edges of the end walls and the end edges of the side walls, radially-disposed panels connecting the corners of the end walls and the ends of one of the flat panels forming the arch connecting the side walls and top, an end panel connecting the top of the end walls and the ends of the top of the vault, and a panel construction between the margins of the end walls and some of said panels whereby the end walls are reinforced.

2. A vault structure having an elongated body of polygonal cross section and convex end members formed of a plurality of flat plates and interconnecting marginal struck-up re-enforcing panels forming an arch of substantially inverted U form with the ends of the U-shaped re-enforcing panels disposed adjacent the lower corners of the vault.

3. A vault structure having an elongated body of polygonal cross section and convex end members formed of a plurality of flat plates interconnected by a struck-up panel structure of substantial inverted U shape, said panel structure having its lower ends disposed adjacent the lower corners of the end member and having a plurality of radiating fingers extending from the main body of the panel structure toward the upper corners of the end members and interengaging the edges of said flat plates adjacent said upper corners.

4. A vault top having side walls extending upwardly and outwardly, a flat top connected at each side to one of said side walls by a plurality of connected angularly disposed flat panels, and convex end members connected to the ends of said top, sides and angularly disposed flat panels, said end members each comprising an upwardly and outwardly extending end panel, a pair of triangular-shaped panels between the side edges of each end panel and adjacent end edges of said side panels, radially disposed panels between said angularly disposed flat panels and edges of said end panels, and a substantially arcuate panel structure having radiating finger portions, said panel structure connecting adjacent edges of the respective panels with each other and with the upwardly and outwardly extending end panel.

RALPH E. SMITH.